

# The

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## Attorney produces documentary film

ATHENS - God's Courtroom, a documentary religious film, will be aired on WAND TV - Channel 17, December 24th at 12:30 pm and December 25th at 11:00 am. The film presents the Gospel from a legal perspective and was produced by Attorney Bruce A. Kugler who resides in rural Athens.

It was filmed at four historic Illinois courthouses including the Menard County Courthouse. Portions were also filmed at the Old State Capitol of Illinois and the Old Franklin County Jail in Benton, Illinois, where the last public hanging took place in the State of Illinois. God's Courtroom showcases the unique architecture and historic courthouses in Central Illinois. The film also describes the legal practice of Abraham Lincoln including the Almanac Trial of 1858.

It is a religious film, but quite different. It views passages of the Bible not in a traditional sense, but through a legal lens. According to Kugler, "As I began to read and study the Bible, many legal terms and concepts began to catch my attention." God's Courtroom, explains salvation from a legal perspective by using legal analogies. Kugler stated, "I thought it might be effective to take common principles in a criminal case and compare them with the trials that will take place in God's courtroom after a person's death." Kugler takes scripture and describes the charge, the penalty, potential legal defenses, role of witnesses, and most importantly, God's offer of a pardon, a "plea agreement," to every person. God's Courtroom presents this important challenge to every person: "You will one day stand trial in God's courtroom. Are you prepared?"

Surprisingly, Kugler rejects the notion that good people go to heaven and bad people go to hell. According to Kugler, when people are tried in God's Courtroom the standard for "not guilty" is absolute perfection. This is a standard that no can achieve. Kugler stated, "If that is the standard I would definitely be found guilty - there are no good defenses." Kugler suggests that the only reason a person can enter heaven after they die is on a legal principle that Jesus Christ paid the death penalty on the person's behalf. Basically, the person enters a plea agreement with God and accepts a pardon. "Only the guilty need a pardon, not the innocent," says Kugler.

Kugler attended Valparaiso School of Law in Valparaiso, Indiana where he earned a Juris Doctorate. During law school, he received honors in scholarship and was a member of the executive board for law review as an articles editor. In 1988, he was admitted to the Illinois Bar. He is also admitted to practice law before the United States District Court for the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois. He is currently a Trial Attorney with the United States Department of Justice.

Kugler has made numerous pre-

sentations of God's Courtroom in churches and conferences and has spoken internationally in Nicaragua and India. God's Courtroom has also been aired twice nationally on Direct TV (Channel 377) and about 17 other stations by the TCT Network and has also been aired on Rophe TV in Goa India, and television stations in Nicaragua. The film can also be viewed in its entirety at [www.godscourtroom.org](http://www.godscourtroom.org). God's Courtroom is a § 501(c)(3) organization and is a ministry of the Living Faith Baptist Church located in Sherman.